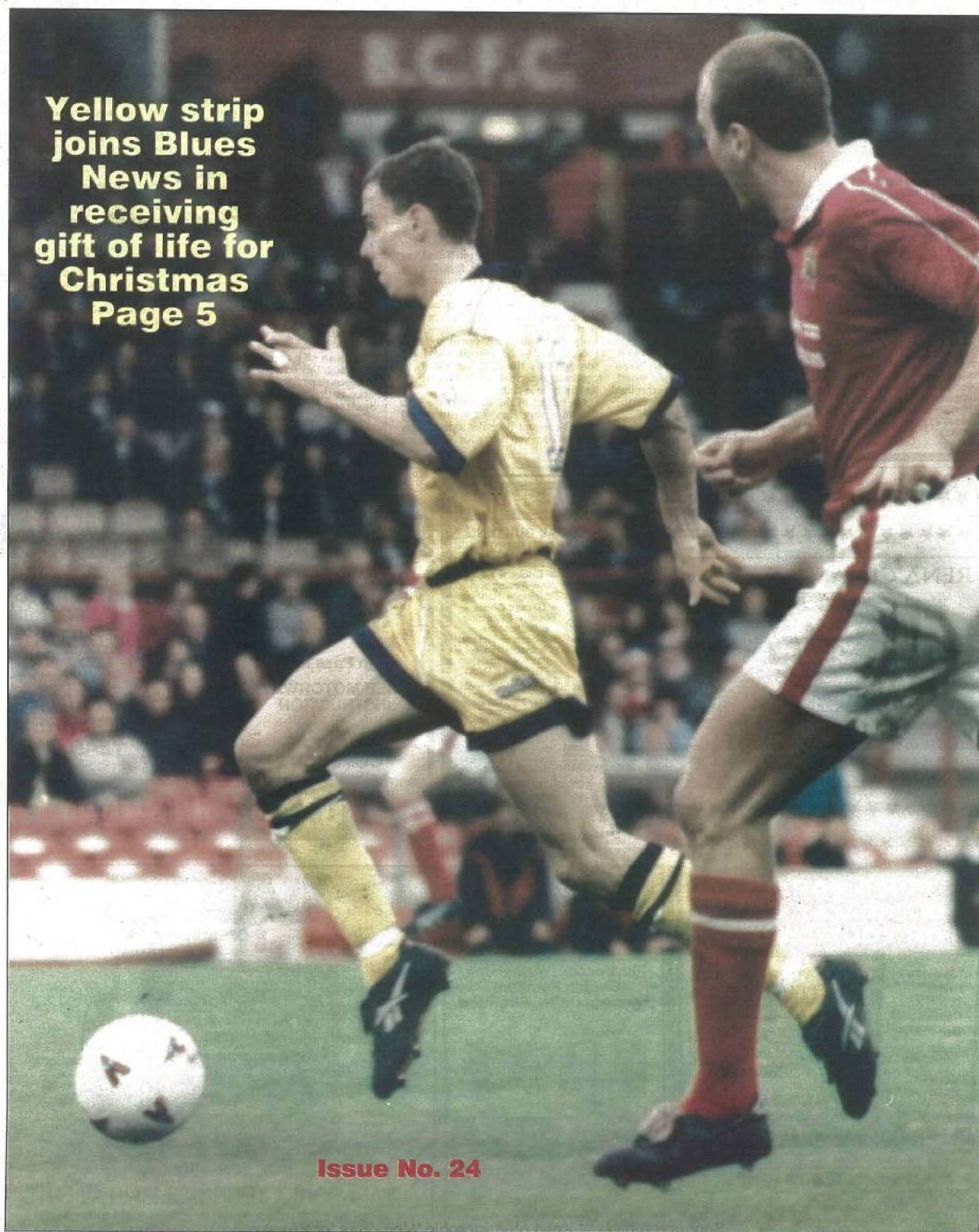




The **BLUES NEWS**

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

**Yellow strip
joins Blues
News in
receiving
gift of life for
Christmas
Page 5**



Issue No. 24

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THE BLUES NEWS

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Pictures for this edition of The Blues News were supplied by Wycombe Wanderers and the Bucks Free Press.

The Blues News is the official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers. It is produced in association with the Bucks Free Press. Any correspondence should be sent to the Editor, The Blues News, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe. Telephone (0494) 472100. Fax (0494) 527633.

Success has to be earned

WE should not forget the leap forward we have taken when we consider the great many changes at the football club since the new season began in August, only four and half months ago.

In regard to our new management team headed by Alan Smith, and complete with a new youth team programme, I believe in any organisation or business that people need time to settle in and ideas time to fit into a system.

It is all too easy to criticise and I have received many letters in that direction which have all been answered, but it is in times when the difficult periods arise that support is needed far more than when success is flowing. I would, therefore, ask you to be patient with all aspects of the football club for I firmly believe that there are a great deal of exciting times ahead.

Our youth development policy, which is very young and which in due course will pay dividends, has required a substantial cash injection and will continue to do so. But I look with envy at the success Alan Smith achieved with Crystal Palace where many young players came through the system and some are now in the England team.

The new stand, as you are aware, has received planning consent and we are currently on the last details to

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS NOTES

By Ivor Beeks



appoint a contractor to start before the season ends.

It is our wish that the stand will be completed by the start of the 1996/97 season - or as close to that date as possible. Five thousand seats, 20 executive boxes, a new function suite and better access. It is a far cry from the wooden stand at Loakes Park.

We are about to make an application to the National Lottery Fund for help with the training pitch and car park which will provide facilities for six-a-side football, hockey and more community use for young children.

As I have stated, it is an exciting future and one which requires support. Yes, the FA Cup and the Coca-Cola Cup were disappointing, but success has to be earned and I am sure we have the right ingredients to continue the climb of this energetic and ambitious club.

On behalf of the directors we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support.

Scheme takes heat off students

AT the start of the 1995/96 season Wycombe Wanderers agreed to participate in Freestyle.

This is Wycombe District Council's new leisure scheme for the community which has replaced the leisure pass scheme. What attracted us to the scheme was that it offered benefits, with additional benefits for those who most need them.

The aim is to bring most of the leisure facilities in Wycombe to everyone at an affordable price. All Freestyle card holders who qualify for higher discounts at Wycombe Wanderers can get £2.50 off the adult entry to all home first team matches and free entry to all Capital League games and youth team matches at Adams Park.

Those who qualify for the higher discount are: i) registered unemployed; ii) registered disabled; iii) YTS trainees; iv) students in full-time education; v) sixth form students and vi) those receiving income support, family credit and housing benefit etc. For full details, call (01494) 446324.

There are currently more than 6,000 Freestyle card holders who all qualify for five per cent discount at Wanderers in Town in the Octagon Shopping Centre. Although this scheme is similar to the leisure pass scheme, the difference is that it gives a discount to students in full-time education and YTS schemes discounted entry to Adams Park at the concessionary rate of £4.50 which is £2.50 less

By Sales and Marketing Manager Mark Austin



than the adult entry fee of £7. I will have been at Adams Park for four years in January, and can honestly say that one of the most common complaints have come from students and parents of students, arguing the case for a discount for sixth formers and full-time students.

Now, in conjunction with the council, the club offer £2.50 off entry to all league and cup matches.

This will encourage students who live in High Wycombe and also students who do not live here permanently to afford to visit Adams Park during term time.

If you are a student or sixth former who has stopped coming because of finances, you can now hopefully afford to see the Blues once again.

On the clubshop side, we are buying a heat transfer machine that will be able to put names and numbers onto shirts, and transfers onto T-shirts and sweatshirts etc. This service will be available from Wanderers in Town from Monday, January 8. We have ordered the same style numbers which are on the first team shirts.



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THE BLUES NEWS

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Telly has plum role to play

'Referees' mistakes should be monitored by TV'

TV appears to be ruling our lives and of course this was the reason our recent away match at Carlisle was switched to a Sunday by Carlisle, although both the chairman and I violently objected to this, but to no avail.

We both felt it was unfair on our supporters having to travel on a Sunday with work the next day, but the money of TV unfortunately won the day - with no large amounts involved nor Wycombe earning greatly from the experience.

I am now a firm believer that referees' mistakes should be monitored by TV, as it is in cricket, and I believe it would not hold up the game as much as people expect and would certainly have overridden the linesman's decision against a Carlisle player, who was blatantly offside in our penalty box by two yards. It gave them an early goal after only three minutes' work. A whole week's work had gone into playing for the Carlisle game and we had stayed overnight in a hotel to make sure the players were fresh.

Although I am the first to admit that referees and linesmen are only human, everyone was amazed at the ground that the goal was given and when I watched the replay on TV all the commentators and experts were dumbfounded.

The same applied to our away game at Wrexham last week when we lost the services of Jason Cousins two thirds of the way through the game. If the referee had just been able to see the incident again he

By Manager
Alan Smith



would have realised a mistake was made. With all this modern technology, we must use its resources and a third umpire watching the screen, as I mentioned earlier, as used in cricket, would have saved us a great deal of heartache and costly mistakes would have been avoided. I realise this works in both directions but as TV is having such a big influence anyway, why not use it to get the right result.

Keeping on the TV theme, I must say I am dismayed and disappointed with the attitude of some of the comments being made by clubs in the Endleigh League Division Two about the split of TV money being 80/20 per cent for the smaller clubs. This is based purely on financial gain and greed and is certainly not good for the overview of football. I sincerely hope the chairmen from the lower leagues will resist the bombastic attitude of some of the members of Division One and that these clubs are not able to steamroller the divisions for this money as it will cause endless problems in the future.

I hope you will notice our youth team are third in their division and all credit to

them and their coach Neil Smillie. When you consider they spent all of last season near the bottom of the division, this is a wonderful achievement and I am sure they will go from strength to strength.

Our youth system continues to flourish with Jim Melvin looking after our Centres of Excellence. I would like to emphasise how you are very welcome to contact us if you have any enquiries or require further information about the many varied aspects of our community set-up, even if they are not related to playing professional football.

I like working with the players in the mornings at Bisham Abbey. The latter is one of the reasons I came to Wycombe Wanderers. Another reason is that it's a well run ambitious club and I have been given total charge of everything on the football side from the Under-11s to the first team.

To achieve long-term success, my main aim is to concentrate on footballing technique and training to instill confidence in the players. I have changed both the training ground and the training from last season and the players are on new diets as well.

I have my ideas and I believe in them. I like the lads here, and I'd like to think I can get them out of this division. Wycombe have put a lot of trust in me and I'd dearly like to repay that trust.

Part of this article appeared in last Saturday's matchday programme.



Unfair dismissal: Alan Smith believes Jason Cousins was unfairly sent off at Wrexham

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UNBEATABLE

THE BLUES NEWS

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Get your yellow kit on

EXTRA TIME FOR YELLOW KIT

WYCOMBE Wanderers will auction all the current yellow players' shirts to celebrate extending the life of the yellow kit.

The kit will be used for away fixtures during the 1996/97 season.

The auction will be in the format of a blind auction and will take place during the next four weeks.

All written bids have to be submitted by no later than 3pm on Saturday, January 13, 1996 when Wycombe Wanderers take on Notts County at Adams Park.

There will be 15 shirts auctioned in total.

These will consist of a goalkeeper's shirt worn by Paul Hyde and all the actual players' outfield shirts, numbered two to 15. They are short sleeved in yellow with navy trim, white numbers, and two Endsleigh Insurance League badges.

The blind auction format means that anyone wishing to make a bid for a particular shirt(s) can do so by filling in the form accompanying this article.

The bidder MUST NOT enclose any money with the submitted bid and payment will only be requested from successful bidders.

Anyone wishing to make a bid for any of the first team yellow shirts should fill out the application form below and submit either by post to: Yellow Kit Auction, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club, FREEPOST, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4HJ, or drop it into the Commercial Offices by hand.



Model army: Blues' players, wearing the strip which will be auctioned off, applaud their fans

Yellow Kit Blind Auction Application Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Day and evening phone no(s): _____
The playing number of the shirt(s): _____
Bid amount(s): _____

Rules and regulations:
1) Bidders are allowed to submit bids for one or as many shirts as they wish.
2) If more than one shirt is bid for at the same, or differing amounts, then it should be clearly stated on the application form the amount of each bid for each particular shirt.
3) All submitted bids must be submitted in writing by 3pm on Saturday, January 13, 1996.
4) All successful bidders will be notified week commencing January 15, 1996.
5) Payment will only be requested for each successful bid.
6) Each successful bidder will have the choice of formally being presented with his/her shirt on the pitch before the Brighton and Hove Albion match at Adams Park on Saturday, January 27, 1996.

Tickets on sale for festive fare

TICKETS for Wycombe's match against Swindon on Boxing Day will be available from the commercial office during normal office hours until 4.30pm today (Friday, December 22).

Seat prices are £10 adults, £6 OAPs and juniors under 16.

Swindon Town's County Ground is all-seater and the tickets available from Adams Park are in the covered area. There will be tickets available on the day at Swindon but these will be in the uncovered section.

It must be stressed that this Boxing Day fixture is NOT an all-ticket match.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR FIXTURES

HOME
●Shrewsbury Town, Saturday, December 23, at Adams Park (ko 3pm)
●Rotherham United, Monday, January 1, at Adams Park (ko 3pm)
●Prices at Adams Park for all league fixtures are as follows: Adult terrace £7, OAP terrace £4.50, child terrace under-16 £2.50, family stand seat adult £10, child seat £16.50 (maximum of three children per adult in the family stand), main stand seat £12. The Creditcard Hotline for tickets is (01494) 441118.
AWAY
●Swindon Town, Tuesday, December 26, at the County Ground (ko 3pm)
●Brentford, Saturday, December 30, at Griffin Park (ko 3pm)

Voucher

Two Free Tickets For New Years Day

Wycombe Wanderers v Rotherham United
Endsleigh Insurance League Division Two
●To qualify, see details on back page

Player profile

PLAYER PROFILE

PERSONAL DETAILS

FULL NAME: Jason Rowbotham
DATE OF BIRTH: January 3, 1969
HEIGHT: 5ft 9in
WEIGHT: 11st 4lbs
HOME: Two-bedroomed house in Plymouth
CAR: Vauxhall Astra
MARRIED: Yes to Angela
CHILDREN: 16-month-old boy called Jack
DAD'S JOB: Scaffolder
BROTHERS & SISTERS: Two brothers - Kevin and Darren, who plays for Shrewsbury
FAMILY PETS: None at present
NICKNAME AT CLUB: I haven't got one yet, but Scouse probably



Jason Rowbotham

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHO DO YOU SHARE A ROOM WITH ON AWAY TRIPS? Gary Patterson.
DOES HE HAVE ANY ANNOYING HABITS? Yes, he tries singing.
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? To be a professional footballer.
WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW? To play for Wales.
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Steve Coppell.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE? The birth of my boy Jack.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE? Being released from Plymouth when injured.
WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? The Hillsborough disaster.
WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Alan Shearer.
WHO IS THE GREATEST

PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN? Pele.
WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? My brother Darren.
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Mark Hateley or Rangers.
WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? Dave Smith of Plymouth.
WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A FOOTBALLER? Don't know, probably labourer.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT? A birdie at golf.
WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH? Raith's Sally Graham was six yards from an open goal and missed, then told the lads it hit a bobble. But the video proved him wrong.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? The Gaffer calling me Matt on my debut.
WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY? Man United.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND? Ibrox.
WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY? Golf and snooker.
DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME? No.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN? Jimmy White.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? League Champions and Coca-Cola Cup medals 1984/85.
DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS? No.
IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT? Embassy World Snooker Champion.
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL? Referees and lazy wingers.
WHAT ARE YOUR PET HATES OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? Smoking and bad drivers.

FAVOURITES
TV PROGRAMME: Rab C Nesbit
POP STAR/GROUP: Phil Collins/Genesis
FOOD: Anything
DRINK: Lime and soda
FILM: Basic Instinct
FILM STARS: Steven Seagal/Sharon Stone
HOLIDAY RESORT: Costa Del Plymouth
TV STARS: David Jason
COMEDIAN: Chubby Brown

●Compiled by Steve Hayes

Assistant manager profile

ASSISTANT MANAGER PROFILE

PERSONAL DETAILS

FULL NAME: David Michael Kemp
DATE OF BIRTH: February 20, 1953
HEIGHT: 5ft 9.5in
WEIGHT: 12 stone 6lbs
HOME: Windsor
CAR: Vauxhall Omega
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: No
DAD'S JOB: He used to work for Kodak in their film testing department
BROTHERS & SISTERS: Sister Amy



David Kemp

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? To be a footballer.
WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION NOW? To enjoy my work.
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Denis Law.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE? Scoring goals, winning games, winning FA Cup and Division One Championship.
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE? I don't dwell on disappointments.
WHAT IS YOUR SADDEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? My father not being alive to enjoy this time at Wycombe.
WHICH PRESENT-DAY FOOTBALLER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Jurgen Klinsmann. He uses his talent to the maximum.
WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS EVER BEEN? Pele.
WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? My Father.
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST

OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Franz Beckenbauer.
WHICH MANAGER HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER? I have learnt something from all of them, good and bad!
WHAT JOB WOULD YOU BE DOING IF YOU HADN'T MADE IT AS A MANAGER? Coaching in some way.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT? I have never won any trophies away from football.
WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A FOOTBALL PITCH? I scored at Chester once and the goalkeeper collided with the post and broke it and the whole goal fell down on top of him. Everyone thought it was hilarious but I was furious because the game was abandoned and the two goals that I scored didn't count.
WHAT WAS YOUR MOST

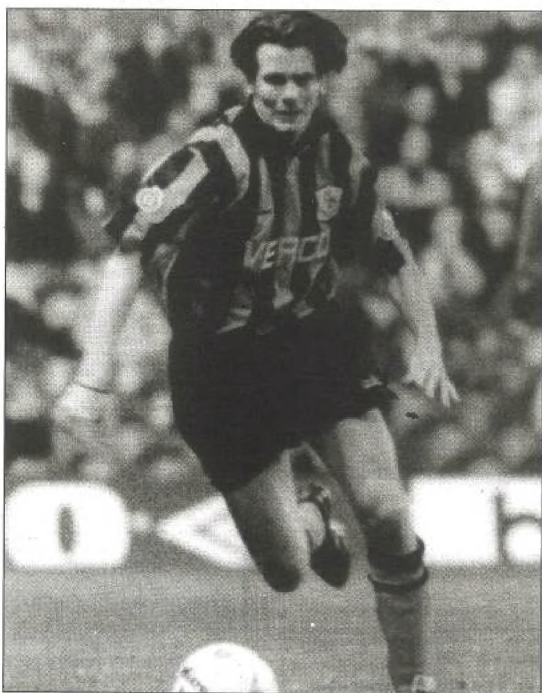
EMBARRASSING MOMENT IN FOOTBALL? Crystal Palace 1, Liverpool 6.
WHICH TEAM DID YOU SUPPORT AS A BOY? Manchester United.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND? Nearly all the Premier grounds are now superb.
WHAT OTHER SPORTS AND HOBBIES DO YOU ENJOY? Tennis and golf.
DO YOU HAVE ANY UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME? At my age it would have to be illegal.
AWAY FROM FOOTBALL WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN? I admire anyone that gives their all.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? Division One championship medal.
DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS? No.
IS THERE A SPORTING DREAM YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACHIEVED IN ANOTHER SPORT? Win the Open.
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS YOU IN FOOTBALL? People criticising.
WHAT ARE YOUR PET HATES OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL? Smoking in public places.

FAVOURITES
TV PROGRAMME: Sky Sports
POP STAR/GROUP: Simple Minds
FOOD: Fish
DRINK: Guinness
FILM: About Last Night
FILM STARS: Demi Moore
HOLIDAY RESORT: California
COMEDIAN: Alan Partridge
CITY: London, Paris, Rome
SOAP: Carnal!

●Compiled by Steve Hayes

6 THE BLUES NEWS

Pick your main man



Fanzine favourite: The Adams Family have sponsored Gary Patterson

THERE is still a chance for supporters to sponsor their favourite Wycombe player.

The 'Mark Your Man' package includes: tickets for two people for a special presentation evening with the first team squad and management (buffet meal included); each sponsor to receive their player's team shirt; each sponsor to receive an official signed Wycombe Wanderers football; regular acknowledgement in the matchday programme, Blues News and on the PA.

This is a great chance to join the club and support it in a very special way. The scheme also has the advantage of being attractive to companies wishing to earn that little bit of value-added publicity.

For more information on the package and prices, contact Tim Arnold at Adams Park on (01494) 472100

SHIRT SPONSORS

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 Miguel Desouza - Hampden Saw Mills
 Paul Hyde - Ann Cohen and Co. Solicitors (01494 677421)
 Keith Ryan - Philip, Jeanette, Nicola and Paul Brandon
 No.13 Shirt - Crooks and Crystal, Bourne End
 Steve Brown - John Palmer
 Jason Cousins - Chalfonts Girls
 Terry Howard - Link Precision Services (01844 347062)
 David Carroll - Mike Clark
 David Farrell - Denzil, Margaret and Andrew Ashcroft
 Gary Patterson - The Adams Family
 Steve McGavin - Frances Carroll
 Mickey Bell - Graphix Art Supplies (Bourne End) Ltd



PLAYTIME: Six-year-old Kimberley Ann Carroll (left) prefers to make something in the Wanderers matchday creche than watch dad Dave in action. The creche is open for all Saturday fixtures from 2.45pm to 5pm for two-and-a-half to eight-year-olds. The price is £3.50. To book, telephone Tim or Sue on (01494) 472100. The creche is not open for the Rotherham game on January 1.

50 free match tickets: See BFP sports section

Advertisement Feature

Holland Group join the team

WYCOMBE Wanderers first became involved with the Holland Group Ltd before the start of the 1995/96 season by signing a deal with the United Kenning Rental Group to supply two Rover vehicles - one for Jim Melvin our youth development officer and one for David Jones our sports therapist.

Holland Group Ltd is a family business headed by Michael Holland and supported by a strong team committed to providing 'a service second to none'.

Many locals will remember the Old Muffin Shop in Dashwood Avenue, High Wycombe, where Michael first started up in business in 1980. From these premises he sold second-hand furniture and started Holland Gas Supplies in 1981.

Since then, Michael and his brother Phillip have grown into other fields.

The amazing thing about Michael was that he had never been to a football match until he came to Adams Park earlier this season. He soon got hooked by the special family atmosphere at Adams Park, and now comes regularly with his own family. Phillip is now also a keen supporter and together they have both given tremendous support to the club in terms of sponsorship and helping out with hire cars for players at only a moment's notice.

Wycombe Wanderers are extremely fortunate to have many sponsors like the Holland Group who know the secret of long-term success in business - give and take - in other words, a partnership between supplier and customer.

United Car and Van Rental are the local United Kenning Rental Group dealers, ideally located near Adams Park in Desborough Park Road, High Wycombe. Holland Group Ltd can now be described as a five-star company, having five separate businesses which are all



Home base: Michael Holland's shop in Dashwood Avenue

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● **United Kenning Car and Van Rental** - From a Mini to a Mercedes, from an Escort Van to a Transit Luton. As part of United Kenning, United Car and Van Rental are, in effect, a national company with a local service. Big enough to offer unbeatable rental prices, but small enough to care. Telephone (01494) 463346.

● **Wycombe Welding Supplies** - BOC gases, all welding equipment and consumables, welding machines. BOC gases' cylinders all comply with the design standard, approval and certification requirements of the Pressure Systems and Transportable Gas

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THE BLUES NEWS

No Blues please, it's not too bad

WITH the construction of a magnificent new stand about to start, the first team well placed for a promotion push, and both the reserve and youth teams riding high in their respective leagues, Wycombe Wanderers can look forward to 1996 with real optimism.

It would be foolish to pretend that everything in the garden is rosy, but we have every reason to take a positive view of the club's immediate future. Considering the inevitable upheaval which followed a change of management in the summer, I think we've made remarkable progress in just six months.

During the next six months we'll see a transformation taking place at Adams Park both on and off the field. Work will begin very soon on the building of the new stand and work is already underway on the rebuilding of the squad. Neither project will be completed without a few setbacks, but we'll get it right in the end and I believe that we'll all reap the benefits.

The new south stand is an exciting project. I'm sure most of you will have seen the plans and - hopefully - approved of what you saw. It will enhance the facilities at Adams Park to a degree that none of us could ever have dreamed of when we first moved to the stadium only five years ago.

On the field, I am particularly thrilled at the progress made by the youth team. Don't forget, we didn't have any apprentice professionals at the club until this season and Neil Smilie, Jim Melvin and the lads have done wonders in such a short period of time.

The reserves continue to be a major force in the Capital League despite the fact that David Kemp has never been able to field the same line up in successive games. Many of the youth team have gained valuable experience in this higher standard of football and the results have been very encouraging.

While all these factors help to paint a positive picture of our prospects for the New Year, it is, of course, the results and performances of the first team that really matter. That's what makes the turnstiles click and holds the key to our immediate future.

I know that many of you have been disappointed in the team's displays at Adams Park this season. Certainly, too many games have been drawn and the team have rarely been able to produce their best form. It is something that the players and coaching staff work hard at every week on the training ground.

But these things don't come right overnight and I would once again remind you that we have been without the services of key players for long periods - an excuse, I know, but a very valid one. You can't remove players of the calibre of Terry Evans, Keith Ryan and Simon Stapleton without it having an adverse effect.

I have heard criticisms of our style of play this season. It is not my job as a director to comment on the manager's playing philosophy, but all I will say is this - I didn't hear many moans about the style of play coming back from Bradford or Oxford.

Following an earlier article for Blues News, I received many letters and some were published in a previous edition. One letter arrived too late for publication and I print some extracts from it below. The writer is a keen fan and



By Wanderers
Director Alan
Parry

season ticket holder and here's what he wrote: "I am getting increasingly aggravated by some Wycombe fans. When I first started watching the Blues I thought the fans were great, but this was probably because we were winning most weeks. Now I think a large minority are spoilt with success."

"It's no coincidence that our away form is better than our home form. How often have you felt embarrassed when the away contingent at Adams Park out-sing the home fans? I've always hated the need to find a 'whipping boy' to crucify every week, no matter how he plays. We all have our favourites and I could never understand why Martin O'Neill picked Simon Stapleton so often. But my attitude was - he's the manager and he must see something I don't, so give the player the benefit of the doubt."

"Wycombe fans are the worst I've known in this respect. I remember when Steve Guppy used to get 'stick' regularly and even Dave Carroll, one of the most consistent and skilful members of the team. Now it's John Williams. They chastise the poor man every time he makes a mistake, but conveniently ignore anything he does well. I remember Steve Brown getting the same treatment when he first arrived."

He showed amazing courage and resilience to prove them wrong and went on to become player of the year. I've detected at recent games that even Miguel Desouza is starting to get 'stick'. It seems that 17 goals in 26 games is just not good enough."

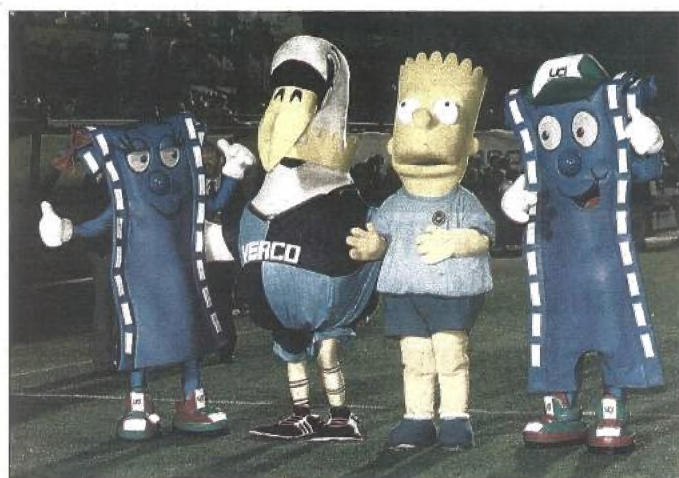
"There is often a pessimistic attitude and the atmosphere this season has been very gloomy. You'd think that Wycombe were in the bottom four looking at the fans' faces! With the new stand about to be built and team doing as well as ever, you'd expect the place to be buzzing with excitement - but, sadly, it isn't. Some fans have been spoilt and now take it all for granted. I must admit that I felt gloomy when Martin O'Neill left and I didn't share the optimism surrounding Alan Smith's appointment. But I'm glad to admit that I was wrong on that one."

"The spoilt-with-success syndrome was cured at other clubs by a sharp dose of relegation. Nottingham Forest supporters quickly rallied around after a season in the First Division. They learned to appreciate what they'd lost. Let's hope that Wycombe fans somehow find some other cure."

The writer did supply his name and address. It was my decision not to publish it because of his controversial views. Is his description of some Wycombe fans fair? Have we really been spoilt by success?

Personally I don't agree with everything my correspondent had to say, but he made some very valid points. I wholeheartedly agree with him on one issue.

Let's be more positive about what we've got here. We're in a lot better shape than many clubs and the future will be bright if we rally to the cause.



CARTOON CREW: U, C and I, the mascots for the UCI Wycombe 6 cinema, line up with Bluey the Swan and Bart Simpson before the FA Cup match against Gillingham

Tickets up for grabs if you like the hire life

UNITED Kenning Car and Van Rental and Allhire Centres are offering the first 50 hire customers from 9am on Monday, December 18, onwards, two free tickets to watch Wycombe Wanderers v Rotherham United on New Years Day (Ks 3pm).

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